

1. Introduction

The transportation system is a region's lifeline. This system provides a means of transporting people and goods from one place to another quickly, conveniently, and safely, thereby contributing to its economic prosperity and social well being. A well-planned system should meet the existing travel demands and keep pace with the growth of the region. In January 2003, Warren County and its municipalities recognized the importance of planning for future transportation needs. In April 2005, they requested transportation planning assistance from the Transportation Planning Branch of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to develop a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).

Warren County is located in the north central region of North Carolina. It is bordered on the north by the State of Virginia, on the east by Halifax and Northampton Counties, on the south by Franklin and Nash Counties, and on the west by Vance County. The geographical location of the Warren County Planning Area is shown in **Figure 1**.

Warren County is a rural county, with most of its population living in communities no larger than 1500 people (inclusive of the three incorporated municipalities). The predominant source of revenue for its economy is agriculture. The outpouring of development from the Triangle area has caused an increase in residential development, especially from the south where Franklin County is located.

This report documents the development of the 2008 Warren County Comprehensive Transportation Plan as shown in **Figure 2, sheets 1-4**. In addition, this report presents recommendations for each mode of transportation. A CTP is developed to ensure that the progressively developed transportation system will meet the needs of the region. The CTP will serve as an official guide to providing a well-coordinated, efficient, and economical transportation system for the future of the region. This document may be utilized by the local officials to ensure that planned transportation facilities reflect the needs of the public, while minimizing the disruption to local residents, businesses, and the environment. The purpose of this study is to examine present and future transportation needs of the region and to develop a CTP that meets these needs. The CTP recommends those improvements that are necessary to provide an efficient transportation system for the 2005-2035 planning period.

Initiative for the implementation of the CTP rests predominately with the policy boards and citizens of the planning area. The responsibility for implementing those recommendations is shared by Warren County, the municipalities in Warren